

Application No.: 10/762,070

Docket No.: JCLA12713

In The Claims:

Claim 1. (original) A standard mechanical interface (SMIF) box for storing a reticle, comprising:

a base pedestal for holding the reticle; and

a box cover fitting with the base pedestal, including an O-ring between the base pedestal and the box cover for hermetically sealing the SMIF box.

Claim 2. (original) The SMIF box of claim 1, wherein the box cover further includes a drying agent.

Claim 3. (original) The SMIF box of claim 2, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net for retaining the drying agent.

Claim 4. (original) The SMIF box of claim 1, wherein the box cover has a circular groove near edges of the box cover for holding the O-ring.

Claim 5. (original) The SMIF box of claim 4, wherein the box cover further includes a drying agent; the circular groove has a approximately rectangular shape; and the box cover further has four cavities at four inner corners of the circular groove for holding the drying agent.

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Claim 6. (original) The SMIF box of claim 5, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net that seals each cavity for retaining the drying agent.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A reticle loading system, comprising:

an SMIF box for storing a reticle, comprising a base pedestal for holding the reticle and a box cover fitting with the base pedestal, wherein the box cover has a circular groove at inner surface thereof and an O-ring is placed in the circular groove for hermetically sealing the box cover and the base pedestal; and

a hermetic SMIF box loader for separating the base pedestal from the box cover and taking in the base pedestal with the reticle thereon.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended) The reticle loading system of claim 87, wherein the box cover further includes a drying agent.

Claim 10. (original) The reticle loading system of claim 9, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net for retaining the drying agent.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The reticle loading system of claim 87, wherein the box cover has a circular groove near edges of the box cover for holding the O-ring.

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Claim 12. (original) The reticle loading system of claim 11, wherein the box cover further includes a drying agent; the circular groove has a approximately rectangular shape; and the box cover further has four cavities at four inner corners of the circular groove for holding the drying agent.

Claim 13. (original) The reticle loading system of claim 12, wherein the box cover further includes a filter net that seals each cavity for retaining the drying agent.

Claim 14. (original) The reticle loading system of claim 7, wherein the hermetic SMIF box loader has an inert gas inlet and an air outlet thereon.

Claim 15. (original) The reticle loading system of claim 14, wherein the inert gas inlet comprises a nitrogen gas inlet.

Claim 16. (original) An SMIF box loader for loading a reticle from an SMIF box storing the reticle, comprising:

a hermetic body for loading the reticle from the SMIF box; and an inert gas inlet and an air outlet on the hermetic body.

Claim 17. (original) The SMIF box loader of claim 16, wherein the inert gas inlet comprises a nitrogen gas inlet.